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Your Ref: Our Ref: Mrs Sue Newton.s211.2016

Development Control Division Liverpool City Council Municipal Buildings Dale Street **Liverpool L2 2DH**

05 September 2016

Via Planning Portal

Dear Sirs

Re: Section 211 Notification at 24 South Road, Grassendale Park, Liverpool L19 0LT

I am acting as an Agent for the applicant Mrs Sue Newton MBE the owner of the property at 24 South Road, Grassendale Park, L19 0LT.

A mature weeping willow (*Salix alba Tristis*) tree located in north west corner of the rear garden of the property is infected with the honey fungus (*Armillaria* Spp) such that the base of the trunk and root collar area is decayed. There is a large decay cavity on the south quadrant of the trunk and the area behind it is hollow and decaying. In addition there is an incipient infection of a *Ganoderma* Spp on the south side of the trunk with an early fruiting body evident at approximately 1.8m above ground. There is also some early dieback evident in the crown.

The entire base of the trunk and root collar area is compromised such that the tree poses an unacceptable level of risk of failure. A limited visual assessment using the ISA TRAQ approach calculates the likelihood of the tree impacting a target as 'probable' and the consequences of failure as 'likely and significant' producing a risk rating of 'high'.

The loss of this tree would have little if any impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area because there are other trees close to it and in any event it would be replaced with another tree.



Chartered Foresters Expert Witness



Please accept this letter as a formal notice under **Section 211** of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act of the intention to remove the willow tree.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully

DPO'Callaghan

Dr D P O'Callaghan FICFor, F Arbor A, MISA Chartered Arboricultural Consultant **DEALGA'S TREE CONSULTANCY LTD**

- Encl: Photographs & narrative reproduced on the following pages
- Cc Mrs Sue Newton, 24 South Road, Grassendale Park Mr Joe Barnes, Liverpool City Council

C/D/NAS/Mega/DTCL Projects/DTCL105B/Mrs Sue Newton/s211 Notice.docx



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The Tree Description

1. The tree is a mature specimen of weeping willow (*Salix alba Tristis* syn *S babylonica* and *S vitellina Pendula*) that is located in the north west corner of the rear garden of the property. It is approximately 12 to 15m in height with a measured DBH of 685mm and a radial crown spread of 12m, (Photograph 1).



Photo 1: The tree in the north west corner of the rear garden.

2. The base of the trunk has a major cavity that is extensively decayed, (Photograph 2). There is much reaction wood around this cavity but a sounding mallet suggests that the trunk behind the cavity is hollow and/or extensively decayed.



Photo 2: This picture shows the decay cavity (arrowed yellow) and the reaction wood (arrowed red).



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3. The root collar area is infected with honey fungus (*Armillaria* Spp) which is causing white rot at that location (Photograph 3). No samples were taken for identification but from the symptoms and the softness of the wood it is likely that the species of honey fungus is *Armillaria mellea*, which is one of the more aggressive species in this complex of species.

Photo 3: Exposed honey fungus infection on the root collar (arrowed)



Tree Risk

- 4. The tree is extensively decayed at the root collar and the lower portion of the trunk. The extensive crown (Photograph 1) makes the tree 'top heavy' and the white rot is undermining the strength of the wood at the base of the trunk. Therefore, there is a real risk of the tree failing in winds.
- 5. The targets in the event of failure are the garden, Mr and/or Mrs Newton and any visitors using the garden. The target rating is therefore 'medium' on the ISA TRAQ¹ scale but the likelihood of failure is 'probable'. The likelihood of failure and impact is 'likely' and the consequences of failure would be 'high'. On that basis the tree poses an unacceptable level of risk and should be removed.

Remedial Action

6. There is no known cure for either *Armillaria* or *Ganoderma* and the infections will get worse progressively increasing the likelihood of failure. The only prudent intervention management is to fell the tree, poison the stump and plant a replacement tree.

¹ Dunster J A, E T Smiley, N Matheny & S Lilley (2013): Tree Risk Assessment Manual; ISA Publications, ISBN 987-1-881956-77-8



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